

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CEQ-01 EPA-01 SMI-01
INT-05 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IO-13
L-03 DLOS-09 DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /081 R

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-----112516 050031Z /70

O R 050019Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SENV, IWC-1, KS

SUBJECT: WHALE CONSERVATION MEASURES

REF: SEOUL 2294

1. DEPT HAS NOT CONSULTED WITH GOJ OR SOVIETS ABOUT
REFTEL. FOLLOWING IS ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONS RAISED
REFTEL BY DEPT OF COMMERCE EXPERTS AND ONE OF U.S. MEMBERS
OF IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE. IWC CONVENTION STATES IN
ARTICLE X THAT QUOTE ANY GOVERNMENT ... MAY ADHERE
THERETO ... BY A NOTIFICATION IN WRITING TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES UNQUOTE. THEREFORE,
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QUESTION OF ROK MEMBERSHIP CANNOT BE ADDRESSED BY THE
OTHER IWC MEMBERS WITHIN THE IWC ITSELF.

2. QUOTA FOR BRYDE'S WHALES IN NORTH PACIFIC HAS BEEN
DECLINING AND ROK DOES NOT HAVE LONG HISTORY OF TAKING
THIS SPECIES (IF THEY ARE INDEED BRYDE'S WHALES). THESE
FACTORS MIGHT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN TAKE AT THE

SAME LEVEL THROUGH AN AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN AND USSR.

3. SITUATION IS DIFFERENT FOR MINKE WHALES WHICH ARE OBVIOUSLY ONES OF MOST INTEREST TO ROK. USSR DOES NOT TAKE MINKE WHALES. JAPAN TAKES MOST OF ITS MINKE

WHALES IN SEA OF OKHOTSK, TAKING ONLY A FEW IN SEA OF JAPAN. IT IS EXPECTED THAT SEPARATE QUOTA FOR SEA OF JAPAN WILL BE ESTABLISHED SINCE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE HAS DETERMINED THAT THERE IS A SEPARATE STOCK. IWC HAS ESTABLISHED NO QUOTA FOR THIS STOCK IN 1978. IF IWC SETS A QUOTA, THAT QUOTA WOULD NEED TO BE DIVIDED BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE ROK IF ROK WAS MEMBER OF IWC. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT ROK WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE MOST OF THE QUOTA BECAUSE JAPANESE HAVE TAKEN ONLY SMALL NUMBER IN THAT AREA. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT QUOTA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WOULD SET FOR SEA OF JAPAN BUT IT WOULD LIKELY BE SMALLER THAN 1033 (ROK 1977 CATCH). IN SUMMARY, IT APPEARS TO USG AT THIS TIME THAT ROK FEARS THAT THEY WOULD BE COMPLETELY CUT OUT OF FISHERY ARE NOT WELLFOUNDED.

4. FOR TOKYO: WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY DISCUSSING REFTEL AND ABOVE ANALYSIS ON INFORMAL BASIS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF HOST GOVERNMENT AND REPORTING THEIR REACTIONS TO SEOUL AND DEPT. FYI: DEPT UNDERLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDS GOJ HAS SENT CABLES TO ALL NON-MEMBER WHALING NATIONS URGING THEY JOIN IWC. WE SEE THESE TALKS WITH ROK AS HAVING SAME PURPOSE AS GOJ APPROACHES AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GOJ COMMENTS ON ABOVE. END FYI.

5. EMBASSY MEXICO DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE TO BE ADDRESSEE ON THESE CABLES. ONE RECENT CABLE FROM MEXICO ON THIS SUBJECT WAS ORIGINATED BY U.S. MEMBER OF IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN MEXICO CITY ON OTHER BUSINESS. VANCE

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